# BC University Student Outcomes

## CLASS OF 1998: TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

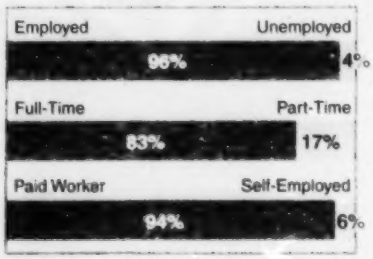
The University Presidents' Council of British Columbia

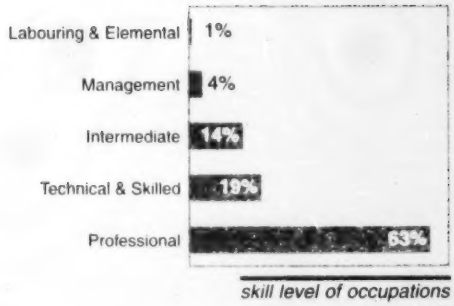
## 2000 SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- What are baccalaureate graduates' employment outcomes?
- How much are graduates earning?
- Are graduates satisfied with their university education?
- Would graduates take the same program again?
- Do graduates pursue further studies?
- Do graduates remain in British Columbia after graduation?

## What are baccalaureate graduates' employment outcomes?

The employment rate for 1998 graduates in the labour force, surveyed two years after graduation, was 96 percent. The majority of employed respondents were working full-time (83%) and 6 percent were self-employed.




A majority of all graduates surveyed were working in professional occupations that require a university degree, according to the Canadian National Occupational Classification system. Less than one-fifth were working in intermediate occupations, requiring two to three years of college-level training. A small percentage were in management occupations, while very few were employed in occupations that require only high school plus some on-the-job training.

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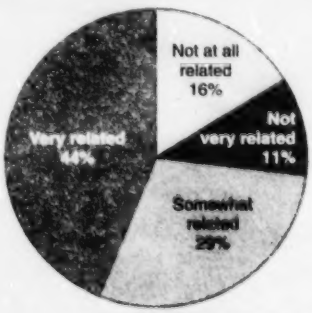
When asked how related their jobs were to their degree program, 73 percent of respondents said their main job was "somewhat" or "very related" to the program they completed at university. Those who completed co-operative education were more likely to have employment related to their studies (85%) than those who did not (72%).

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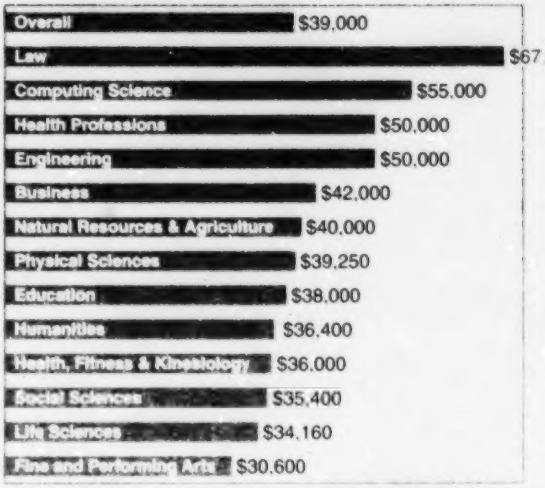
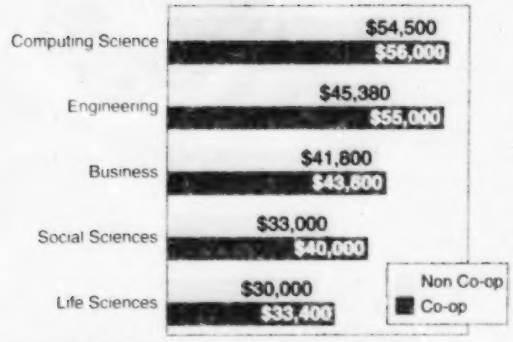
## How much are graduates earning?

The median annual salary for graduates employed full-time was $39,000. Median full-time earnings were higher for males ($42,500) than for females ($38,000) and increased with the age of the respondent, from $38,000 for those 20 to 29 years of age to $45,120 for those 40 years of age and older.

Across program areas there was wide variation in overall median full-time income levels. Law was the highest at $67,500, while Fine and Performing Arts was the lowest at $30,600.



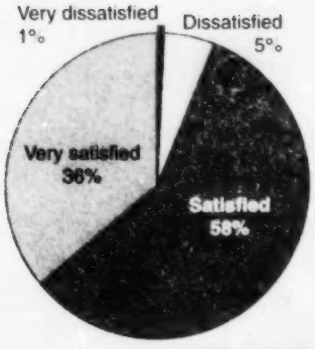

*median annual salaries*




*co-op and non co-op annual median salaries for programs with more than 30 co-op completers*

Those graduates who completed co-operative education had higher median full-time incomes than those who did not. In particular, co-op completers from Engineering and Social Sciences programs reported significantly higher incomes than their non co-op counterparts.

## Are graduates satisfied with their university education?




*education satisfaction*

Almost all graduates (94%) said that they were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with their university education, and approximately 77 percent of graduates reported that they had "mostly" or "completely" achieved their main goal for enrolling in university.

Fifty-five percent of respondents reported that there were courses they would have liked to have taken but did not, because they were not available, not offered, always full, or had restrictive enrolment policies.

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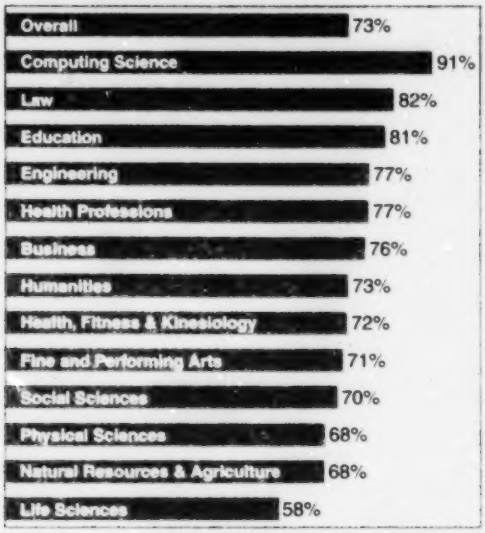
## Would graduates take the same program again?




*would select the same program again*

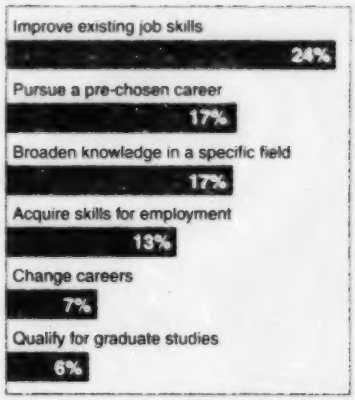
Almost three-quarters of respondents said they would take the same university program again. Among those who reported they would not select the same program again, 29 percent said that their interests had changed, 29 percent stated that the program they chose was not practical, and 20 percent reported that their program provided them with few or no career opportunities.

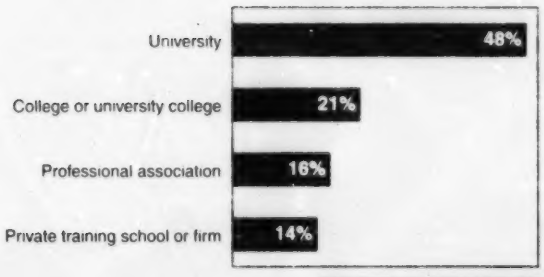
## Do graduates pursue further studies?

Most graduates (74%) took some form of further education within two years of graduating from university. At the time of the survey, 34 percent were currently enrolled in further studies—19 percent on a full-time basis.

While a number of respondents said they enrolled in further education to broaden their knowledge or prepare for a graduate program, most cited employment-related reasons for pursuing further studies.

*top reasons for further education*


Improve existing job skills 24%
Pursue a pre-chosen career 17%
Broaden knowledge in a specific field 17%
Acquire skills for employment 13%
Change careers 7%
Qualify for graduate studies 6%



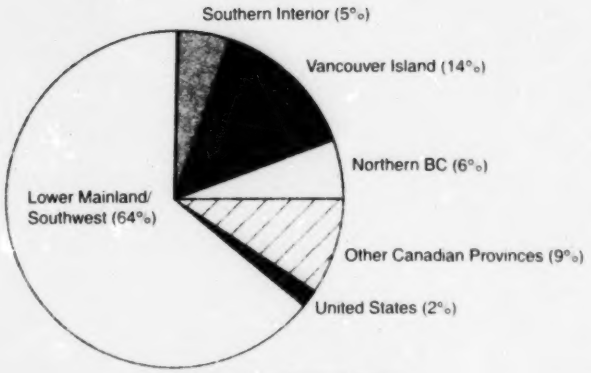

*location of further training*

Of those who pursued further studies, almost one-half enrolled in a university. Many more attended university college or college or studied through a professional association; however, relatively few (3%) participated in employer-sponsored training.

## Do graduates remain in British Columbia after graduation?

At the time of the survey, most respondents (89%) were residing in British Columbia, with almost two-thirds living in the Lower Mainland.

Law graduates were the most likely to be living in another Canadian province (23%). Graduates from Natural Resources and Agriculture programs were more likely than other graduates to be living in Northern British Columbia (23%), while graduates from Computing Science programs were most likely to leave the country—10 percent moved to the United States.



*current residence of graduates*

## About the 2000 Survey Highlights

The *2000 Survey Highlights* provide a summary of key findings from the report on the 2000 BC University Baccalaureate Graduate Survey. This survey was conducted in the fall of 2000 with 1998 baccalaureate graduates two years after graduation.

Out of 9,119 graduates selected for surveying, 6,357 participated in the survey, resulting in a response rate of 70 percent. The survey was conducted under the auspices of the BC University Student Outcomes Project—a long-term research project dedicated to gathering student outcomes information for BC's universities and the Province of British Columbia. The universities, The University Presidents' Council (TUPC), and the Ministry of Advanced Education collaborate on the project, which is funded by the Ministry and managed under TUPC contract by the Centre for Education Information.

Since 1995 the project has been tracking outcomes of baccalaureate graduates from BC's public universities. Currently five institutions participate: University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, University of Northern British Columbia, and Royal Roads University. Graduates are surveyed by telephone both two and five years after their graduation and are asked to report their level of program satisfaction, degree of skill development, employment and further education outcomes, and education financing.

The *2000 Survey Highlights*, and the *2000 BC University Baccalaureate Graduate Survey: Report of Findings*, are available on the Internet from The University Presidents' Council of BC: http://www.tupc.bc.ca/student_outcomes.

Limited quantities of print copies are available by e-mailing: publications@ceiss.org.

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